

## Judges 13:12-25 - Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

(12) Manoah said, "Now let Your words come *to pass*! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?" (13) So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. (14) She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."

- Is it just me, or is the Lord totally ignoring Manoah's question about how they're supposed to raise this child for his rule of life and his work?
- I would've like the Lord to give him, as a father, a step by step instruction manual packaged with this new bundle of joy that was a coming.
- However, instead of giving them a child with the instruction manual included at no extra charge, He says to Manoah let your wife be careful.

- Two thoughts here, the first of which is physical, and the second of which is spiritual. First, as it relates to the physical, this is just practical.
- Modern medicine is now learning that which the Bible has been telling us all along about the physical health of a mother when pregnant.
- As it turns out, whatever the woman eats and drinks or puts in her body can have catastrophic affects on the precious baby in her womb.

- As for the spiritual aspect of it, there's also practical application as it relates to the women with a baby in her womb and even after the birth.
- First, while pregnant, the baby has a God given ability to sense the emotional and spiritual well being of their mother while in her womb.
- While I won't get into some of the fascinating research that's been done in studying this, I'll say a spiritually healthy mom is a healthy baby.

- This health carries on more so after baby is born, which may be why the Lord tells them to be careful and do all they're commanded to do.
- I find it rather peculiar that the Lord almost seems more concerned with their parenting of their child, than He does about the child himself.
- Perhaps it's because when we as parents are careful to do all we're commanded to do, the result will be, we train up that child by default.

Proverbs 22:6 NKJV Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

- The reason I bring this Proverb into the discussion is that there does seem to be a distinction between teaching a child and training a child.
- Here's why, just because I teach my child by giving them instructions, doesn't necessarily mean that I am training them to actually do it.
- It's been said that, "it's not so much what children are taught, it's what's caught." In other words, we train them by our example to them.

- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the main reasons that our children rebel against us, I would have to say that it's hypocrisy.
- We become hypocrites when we say one thing and do another or worse send them the message that they're to do as we say not as we do.
- This is the height of hypocrisy. We lose credibility in our lack of integrity to provide a Biblical model for them as a godly example to them.

(15) Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You." (16) And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He *was* the Angel of the LORD.) (17) Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?" (18) And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* wonderful?"

- This is how we know this is a Christophany. It's clearly Jesus Himself as evidenced by his answer to Manoah saying His name is wonderful.
- Actually, this is found in Isaiah 9:6, which tells us, "unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and His name will be called Wonderful."
- By the way, what is it about Manoah that makes him so obsessed with the name of this Angel of the Lord? It seems he can't just let this go.

(19) So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on— (20) it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground. (21) When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He *was* the Angel of the LORD.

- I think it would be safe to say, Manoah and his wife were officially freaked out in just having witnessed the Lord's ascension, with effects.
- I don't mean to be so silly with something so serious, but it is at least worthy of mentioning because it will be germane to what we see next.
- More specifically, after the Lord goes up, they both go down, on their faces, fully realizing that they have just seen the face of their God.

(22) And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" (23) But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time."

- Again, I don't want to make light of the seriousness of this moment, but I can't get over how humorous this is as it relates to our marriages.
- Here's how I get there, Manoah, to his credit, knows the scriptures like in Exodus 33:20, which says no man shall see God's face and live.
- It's for this reason that he reacts the way he does when he says to his wife, "we are dead meat honey!" "We are toast having seen God."

- What I find so humorous is how his wife responds to him. Notice she says, darling, if the Lord had desired to kill us, he would've done so.
- Were He wanting to kill us, He most certainly would not have accepted our burnt offering rather we would have been the burnt offering.
- It's what she says next that brought Manoah back to his senses, she says, if the Lord wanted to kill us, He wouldn't have shown this to us.

- Herein lies the lesson that we can all learn from the text, simply put, we do err when we doubt in the dark what God showed us in the light.
- The Lord had already showed Manoah and his wife how that He was going to give them a son, so there's no reason to doubt that He won't.
- Let's just say for purpose of discussion, that hypothetically, God did kill them for seeing His face; that would Him both unloving and unjust.

- There's something else here that I would like to point out before we bring the chapter to an end, and it has to do with Manoah's wife.
- I can't help but think that she was one amazing woman of God, so much so that the Holy Spirit deemed it fit to include her in the scriptures.
- It's not just because of what she said to her husband to alleviate his fear, it's more about what she did not say to her husband while in fear.

- Conspicuously absent from the narrative is any hint of her emasculating him or ridiculing him for being afraid when there's no reason to be.
- Would to God that both men and women of God, and even men of God, find themselves numbered amongst the Manoah's wives of this world.
- Would to God that we would be quick to comfort and slow to criticize, quick to encourage and slow to discourage one who is prone to fear.

(24) So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. (25) And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

- So, the chapter ends with Samson's birth. We're told he grew, as the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him.
- This sort of dovetails into the next chapter when we see Samson as a young man, with Manoah and his wife still trying to parent this man.
- Next week, Lord willing, when we study chapter fourteen, it's going to get very interesting as we see what Samson does as Israel's Judge.